

November 3, 2000

CMP-11 FO:TP:IA:TT SST

TO: All Directors, Field Operations  
All Port Directors

FROM: Director, Trade Programs

SUBJECT: TBT-00-026 Exemption of Visa, Quota, Guaranteed  
Access Levels (GAL), and GAL Certification for  
Certain Textile and Apparel Articles from  
Designated Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act  
(CBTPA) Beneficiary Countries

PASS TO: Assistant Port Directors, Trade, National Import  
Specialists, Import Specialists, Inspectors, Entry  
Officers, Brokers, Importers and other Interested  
Parties

BACKGROUND:

Title II of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 ("the Act"), which was signed into law on May 18, 2000, authorized the expansion of trade benefits to designated countries in the Caribbean Basin. This trade program provides for the entry of specific textile and apparel articles free of duty and free of any quantitative restrictions, limitations or consultation levels, as well as other benefits to non-textile products.

On October 2, 2000, The President designated the following, among other, as beneficiary countries and U.S. Trade Representative office determined that the countries listed below have implemented and follow, or are making substantial progress toward implementing the requirements and relevant procedures of Chapter 5 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA):

Belize	Haiti
Costa Rica	Honduras
Dominican Republic	Jamaica
El Salvador	Nicaragua
Guatemala	Panama

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), in a directive dated October 30, 2000, effective October 2, 2000, exempts certain textiles and apparel articles, produced or manufactured in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica and Panama from current applicable quota, guaranteed access levels (GAL), GAL certificate requirements, and visa requirements.

Therefore, effective October 2, 2000, certain textiles and apparel articles imported from these countries that qualify for

duty and quota free treatment under Section 211 of the Act are not subject to the otherwise applicable quota, GALs, GAL certificate requirements, and visa requirements.

Benefits for certain textiles and apparel articles from the beneficiary countries are limited for one-year periods, beginning October 2, 2000 and ending September 30, 2008. Applicable quota, GALs, GAL certificate requirements, and visa requirements will apply for qualifying imports of textile and apparel articles in excess of the one-year quantitative limitations.

**ACTION:**

The importation of goods under the CBTPA provisions will no longer be subject to otherwise applicable quota, GAL, visa or GAL certification requirements. However, the programming for the quota module has not been completed to accommodate this requirement change and the trade community may experience difficulty in processing entries until these changes are made. Appropriate QBTs on specific reporting instructions will be issued shortly.

**INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Susan Thomas at (202) 927-3719, Gina Tayler at (202) 927-4882, Cherie Parsons at (202) 927-7002 or Bob Abels at (202) 927-1959.

/s/

Elizabeth G. Durant

cc: Executive Director, Field Operations